

Somalia Domestic Media Monitoring**Brett Collins, Country Desk officer for Somalia****August 21 – 27th, 2013****Headlines:**

- **AU (African Union) Trains Somali Soldiers On Humanitarian Law**
- **Press Freedom**
- **Conflict in Somalia**
- **Somali Govt Welcomes Human Rights Report**

AU Trains Somali Soldiers on Humanitarian Law**AU Trains Somali Soldiers on Humanitarian Law****August 20, 2013 (Sudan Tribune) Foreign Media**

- The African Union (AU) on Wednesday began a three-day training course on human rights for 32 officers from the Somali National Army (SNA) in the Ugandan capital Kampala.
- The training is aimed at ensuring compliance and understanding of international humanitarian law by the Somalia army.
- The workshop was opened by the minister of state for foreign affairs and Regional cooperation, Asuman Kiyingi.

- "I hope this training will provide us with a way forward on how we can use international human rights law and other relevant regional and international legal instruments such as the ones on human rights in enhancing the protection of vulnerable persons" said Aisha Abdullahi

Press Freedom

Somalia: Media Law Hits Somali Journalists

August 20, 2013 (IPS News) Foreign Media

- Somalia's journalists say that the government is not serious about reviewing the country's new, controversial media bill that requires them to reveal their sources, despite a series of recent consultations.
- Somalia is one of the most dangerous places for media workers to operate. Six journalists have been killed this year alone and more than 15 were murdered in 2012.
- Journalists now say that the country's new media bill will make it almost unbearable for them to remain in this Horn of Africa nation. A number are already considering leaving if "the tough law" is endorsed by parliament.
- If accused of breaching the law, journalists can be suspended from work until a court rules on the matter.
- In an attempt to address journalists' concerns over the proposed law, Somali Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon met media representatives at his office in Mogadishu on Jul. 18. And on Jul. 29, Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud met the media at the presidential palace.
- Both local and international media watchdogs have voiced fears over the proposed law, calling the new legislation "vague" and "ambiguous". Many say that it could expose journalists to a range of restrictions for ill-defined offenses.

Somali Govt Welcomes Human Rights Report

22 August, 2013 (Sabahi) Foreign Media

- The Somali Human Rights Task Force released its report on the state of human rights in the country after six months of investigation.
- The report found that inadequate institutional capacity was behind many of the human rights violations committed in Somalia, a consequence of the decades-long civil war. The task force lauded the government's efforts to promote and protect human rights.
- Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon welcomed the report in an address at its official release, with cabinet members, members of the parliamentary human rights committee and civil society representatives in attendance.
- "We are committed to improve the state of human rights in Somalia," he said. "I assure you, we are on the right track by reforming our police force and justice system" said Abdikarim Hussein Guled, Minister of Interior and National Security.

Conflict in Somalia

Raskamboni Militia Demolish Houses in Kismayu

August 24, 2013 Shabelle News (Independent and Private Media)

- Raskamboni militia who are loyal to Ahmed Madobe demolished houses in Kismayu where they injured several residents after they sprayed gunfire to the locals who owned the houses.
- The militia group opened gunfire indiscriminately to the protesting civilians whose properties were also looted according to the residents.
- Kismayu residents who opposed the militia group before are seeing the wrath of a clan militia which is trying to establish an administration for the disputed city of Kismayu.

Heavy Fighting in Kismayu, Lower Juba Region

August 26, 2013 Shabelle News (Independent and Private Media)

- A heavy fighting occurred in Kismayu, lower Juba region of Somalia. War broke up between Alshabab fighters and the Raskamboni militia aided by Kenyan troops at the Kismayu airport which acts as a base for the Kenyan troops.
- The war started when armed Alshabab fighters attacked the Kenyan troops at the airport base. Few minutes later, the Alshabab fighters attacked another military base owned by the Kismayu University.
- The Kenyan officials together with the Raskamboni have not yet talked or comment about the fighting last night.

Somali Govt Welcomes Human Rights Report

Collective efforts essential for progress as Somalia faces critical moment

August 26, 2013 UN News Center (Independent Foreign Media)

- The top United Nations envoy in Somalia today stressed that collective and coordinated efforts from the Government as well as regional and international organizations are needed to achieve progress in the east African country.
- Mr. Kay highlighted some the achievements of the Federal Government of Somalia since it was formed almost a year ago, including the Parliament's launch of a Constitutional Review Process that would involve civil society, and a law establishing a Constitutional Review Commission.
- Mr Kay claimed "The United Nations looks forward to working jointly with the AU and in close consultation with the Federal Government, in undertaking a review of the deployment of AMISOM,"
- "I hope too that it will give due emphasis to the importance of making rapid and significant progress on enhancing the capacity of the Somali national security forces." He stated.
- He added that support is not limited to the capital, but expands to various regions including the facilitation of dialogue Somaliland and supporting an inclusive process for future elections in Puntland, among other issues.

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